

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190200

FOR SIMONS FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. CASTRO SLOT. WE WERE UNABLE TO TURN COMMERCE AROUND ON BERGMAN AND REPLACE HIM WITH HANDLEY. HOWEVER, WITH YOUR PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS WE HAVE CONVINCED STATE PERSONNEL THAT THE NEW COMATT SHOULD BE OUT THERE THIS FALL, AND THEY WILL BE REQUIRING 3 RATHER THAN 6 MONTHS LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR BERGMAN WITH A TARGETED ETA IN BUCHAREST OF END-NOVEMBER. A WORD OR TWO ON BERGMAN. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO KNOW HIM, INCLUDING THE CHIEF OF THE COMMERCE FIELD OFFICE PROGRAM AND BILL RAU OF EB/OCA. BOTH GIVE HIM HIGH MARKS ON INTELLIGENCE AND INITIATIVE. CARL HAS ALSO SPOKEN TO HIM BY PHONE AND CONFIRMS HIS EARLIER IMPRESSION (FROM A MEETING IN ST. LOUIS LAST YEAR) THAT HE IS A WELL-ABOVE AVERAGE COMMERCE EMPLOYEE. WE RECOGNIZE THE RISKS OF SENDING SOMEONE WITHOUT ANY OVER-
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SEAS EXPERIENCE TO A PLACE LIKE BUCHAREST, BUT WE SEE NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVES AT THIS POINT.

2. AGATT SANDEN. AGRICULTURE HAS SHOWN SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TRYING TO MEET YOUR REQUEST. SANDEN'S LANGUAGE TRAINING HAS BEEN CUT FROM 20 WEEKS TO 15 BUT, BECAUSE OF USDA CONSULTATIONS AND FAMILY OBLIGATIONS, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE

TO GET TO POST UNTIL FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY. NEVERTHELESS, WITH LATE NOVEMBER ARRIVAL FOR BERGMAN AND EARLY JANUARY ETA FOR SANDEN, THE POST SHOULD HAVE A BETTER PHASE-IN IN THE ECON SECTION THAN HAD BEEN FEARED.

3. BRADGON TDY. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THREE TIMES NOW THAT THE BACK CHANNEL MESSAGE ON EXTENDED TDY FOR BRADGON WOULD BE GOING OUT PROMPTLY; WE WERE ASSURED AGAIN YESTERDAY THAT IT WOULD BE ON ITS WAY TODAY. IN ANY CASE, HIS EXTENDED TDY IS APPROVED.

4. BURGESS TDY NOVEMBER/DECEMBER. WE CANNOT BE TERRIBLY ENCOURAGING ON THE PROSPECTS FOR ANOTHER TDY FOR BURGESS, BUT WE WILL DISCUSS IT WITH COMMERCE IN THE COMING WEEKS. EUR/EX IS NOT AT ALL ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA. IF YOU STILL WANT TO PUSH THIS PROPOSAL, IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU COULD GIVE US SOME ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF WHAT WOULD NOW APPEAR TO BE NOVEMBER ARRIVAL OF BERGMAN AND PROBABLE POSTPONEMENT OF COMMISSION MEETING.

5. STEVE JOHNSON (STATE 169886). HAVE YOU SENT ANYTHING IN ON PROGRAM FOR JOHNSON? WE WANT TO BE SURE WE HAVEN'T MISSED A PER CHANNEL MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. ARIA FUNDING (BUCHAREST 5133). WE HAVE AGAIN PUSHED
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THE BUDGET PEOPLE TO GET TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT AND WE WILL KEEP AFTER THEM. WITH THE UP-COMING TURNOVER IN EE, DON'T HESITATE TO REMIND US IF THERE IS NO RESPONSE.

7. CAVEAT ON O-I CHANNEL. WE WANT YOU TO BE AWARE THAT WHEN O-I CABLES ARE SENT IMMEDIATE (IN EITHER DIRECTION) COPIES WIND UP IN THE OP CENTER. THIS DOESN'T MEAN NEVER SEND THEM IMMEDIATE, BUT USE DISCRETION.

8. EXPORT CONTROL CASE DENIAL. COMMERCE HAS RECEIVED DENIAL ON 2 COUNTERS AND 3 LOGIC-ANALYZERS REQUESTED BY TEKTRONIX FOR SHIPMENT TO ELECTRONICA (BEWT CASE 31437). APPARENTLY THE PARAMETERS FAR EXCEED COCOM LIMITS AND THERE IS A CONSISTENT HISTORY OF DENIAL. OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE CONTRACT (AMPLIFIERS AND MULTIMERS) SHOULD GO THROUGH WITHOUT PROBLEMS. THIS IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. WE WILL TRY TO ALERT YOU TO IMPENDING OR LIKELY DENIALS.

9. EXCON (GENERAL). VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BUCHAREST 5153 (STADIS) ON EXPORT CONTROLS. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH EB/EWT TO TRY TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE AND

MAY WELL CALL ON THE EMBASSY FOR SOME ASSISTANCE.

10. BIRNBAUM - VEST. BIRNBAUM CALLED ON VEST YESTERDAY TO PRESS HIS PROPOSAL FOR A "CHANNEL" TO GATHER NAMES OF ROMANIAN JEWS WISHING TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. VEST MADE NO PROMISES BUT SAID WE WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM. BIRNBAUM ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE "AMNESTY NINE" WERE RECENTLY KICKED OUT OF SOME GOR MINISTRY WHEN THEY WENT TO INQUIRE ABOUT AMNESTY. WE WILL POUCH MEMCON.

11. KREPS MESSAGE ON COMMISSION. STILL SITTING ON HER DESK, BUT NO INDICATION SHE HAS CHANGED HER MIND. THE MILLS OF COMMERCE GRIND SLOWLY.

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12. CEAUSESCU LETTER. SEPTTEL TRANSMITS TEXT OF JUNE 28 LETTER ON EXCON, WHICH WE FINALLY RECEIVED FROM NSC TODAY. WE'LL ALSO POUCH COPY OF ROMANIAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS.

13. NEW DAS? IT IS STRONGLY RUMORED HERE THAT BILL LUERS IS GOING TO DESERT US TO BECOME AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUALA. WE DON'T HAVE ANY CLUES YET ON WHEN HE WILL LEAVE OR WHO WILL REPLACE HIM.
CHRISTOPHER

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